

SECRET**ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET****SUBJECT:** (Optional)

-FBIS Use of Commerical Databases

FROM:Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**EXTENSION****NO.**

FBIS-0275/85

DATE

20 June 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)**DATE****RECEIVED****FORWARDED****OFFICER'S
INITIALS****COMMENTS** (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. Deputy Director for
Science and Technology
Room 6E45 - Headquarters

2.

3. Director, Intelligence

4.

5. Executive Registry
Room 7E12
Headquarters

6.

7. Executive Director

8.

9. Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence

10.

11. Director of Central
Intelligence

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FBIS-0275/85
20 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Director, Intelligence Community Staff
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: FBIS Use of Commercial Databases

REFERENCE: Memo for DCI from D/NSA, dtd 4 Jun 85, Subject:
Commercial Database Use

1. FBIS has been actively exploring exploitation of online commercial databases (particularly scientific and technical ones) for the past year. In September 1984 FBIS began a pilot project aimed at assessing the open-source intelligence potential of foreign commercial databases. This project was specifically related to the establishment of a Science and Technology Center in FBIS in FY 1986. FBIS considers overt exploitation of information from foreign-language commercial databases to fall within the FBIS charter to collect information from foreign public media in support of U.S. Government intelligence requirements, since most material in foreign databases comes from published information.

2. The pilot project used IBM personal computers to sample the contents of some 50 online databases contained in the French Telesystemes-QUESTEL network and identified information in scientific, technical, and economic fields that would meet the requirements of FBIS's traditional consumers of open-source information. The project proved that foreign language databases can provide new bibliographic and documentary information not normally available through regular means of acquisition.

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(20Jun85)

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755 -6000

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Serial: N1109

4 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Commercial Database Use - ACTION MEMORANDUM

1. Open-source information available through online commercial databases is assuming increasing importance to many elements of the Intelligence Community for purposes ranging from needs for basic technology information, support to systems acquisition, as well as important collateral for intelligence production. The savings in time and manpower these services could provide have long been recognized. Almost all commercial databases can now be accessed via personal computers, putting up-to-the-minute information at the fingertips of analysts, technical personnel and executives. NSA is attempting to use this open-source information by integrating commercial database-derived information into a variety of internal support programs.

2. Major impediments to fully using domestic and foreign commercial databases include security, cost, and the appropriate technology to assimilate the data. Other agencies and departments, especially those within the Intelligence Community, share both the need for the information these services offer, and the problems associated with their use. Innovative approaches and effective inter-agency cooperation are essential to full and efficient use of these research tools.

3. Security is a major concern in the use of these databases; i.e., how to obscure both the agency of interest and the specific purpose to which the information may be put. NSA's Information Resources Management Organization has begun investigating alternatives for rapid secure access to commercial databases including data downloading, transmission through a



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secure gateway computer or physical data transfers; and the computer security problems that are inherent in the task. These studies have included discussions with representatives of other agencies and departments who agree that the technology and security problems are generic to most potential users. It is proposed, therefore, that the Intelligence Community work together under the purview of the Intelligence Handling Committee to develop and implement an approach to exploiting commercial databases securely. I would be willing for NSA to take the lead in this effort.

Wm E Odom

WILLIAM E. ODOM
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

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